

SHARP Monthly Reader

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Q&A

Q. What is meant by management leadership and employee participation?

A. Employers and employees work together to make safety and health a priority. Employer and employee involvement with communication on workplace and safety and health issues are essential. For example, this partnership can be achieved when you

- Post the company's written safety and health policy for all to see
- Involve employees in policymaking on safety and health issues
- Take an active part in safety activities
- Hold meetings that focus on employee safety and health

Tracking of Workplace Injuries & Illness

The final rule to Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses prohibits employers from discouraging workers from reporting an injury or illness.

The final rule requires employers to inform employees of their right to report work-related injuries and illnesses free from retaliation; clarifies the existing implicit requirement that an employer's procedure for reporting work-related injuries and illnesses must be reasonable and not deter or discourage employees from reporting; and incorporates the existing statutory prohibition on retaliating against employees for reporting work-related injuries or illnesses.

For many years, a mandatory post-accident drug test was standard

practice, but now it is being interpreted as a deterrent for reporting work-related injuries/illnesses.

OSHA's new interpretation, would require employers to drug test only if there is a reasonable suspicion that an employee may be impaired when an accident occurred or at the workplace (through random drug testing).

The updates also require businesses (depending on number of employees and industry type) to submit their OSHA 300 Logs electronically, starting on July 1, 2017.

However, the final rule does not change the employer's requirement to post the 300A – Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses, from February 1 through April 30 in a public area for employees to review.

The final rule will become effective January 1, 2017. More information can be found in the attachment titled, "Recordkeeping and Reporting – Final Rule to Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses."

[PDF](#)



Sustainability through safety (Site)

Businesses cannot be sustainable without protecting the safety, health, and welfare of their most vital resource—their workers. A document co-authored by a current and past leader of OSHA explains that sustainable businesses go beyond compliance to protect

people, the planet, and their profits.

The paper, published this week and available at https://www.osha.gov/sustainability/docs/OSHA_sustainability_paper.pdf, highlights the importance of worker safety and health in the growing movement toward

sustainability and corporate responsibility. It seeks to understand how OSH is integrated (or not) into sustainability efforts and identifies opportunities to leverage the movement to promote worker protection.

Fast Stats

•Fatalities in the private construction industry rose 4% between 2014 and 2015, from 899 to 927.

•The preliminary figures found the number of construction workplace fatalities in 2015 was the highest since 2008.

**Active Shooter Help
Video**
Q&A

Q. What other resources are available to us for third party inspections?

A. Third party inspections can be completed with the help from:

- Local fire departments
- Insurance companies
- Crane inspections
- Boiler inspections

Machine Guarding and Hazardous Energy Control Quiz Pt. 3

1) Which of the following are automated production control system concerns:

- a.** Their machines cannot be locked out
- b.** They require an expert computer programmer to operate
- c.** They move fast, may use numerous energy sources, move automatically from the computer commands and rely on technology to protect humans
- d.** Their operational requirements are not covered by any regulations

2) Interlock switched must be:

- a.** Red in color
- b.** High quality and must not be easily bypassed
- c.** A slide switch or micro switch
- d.** Mounted with quick disconnects to allow for lockout/tagout (LOTO)

3) Employees are allowed into a robotics area without safeguards _____.

- a.** If they are using an enabling switch or teaching pendant
- b.** Retrieve any parts the robot may have dropped during operations
- c.** To make minor adjustments during operations, as long as the gate has triple redundant sensor system
- d.** to remove a stuck part, provided they have proper supervision

4) What must take place to achieve control reliability in computer integrated manufacturing:

- a.** Employer supervision
- b.** An effective Lockout/Tagout Program
- c.** Redundancy and monitoring
- d.** Guarding method within the cell (i.e. stop buttons, pull cords, presence sensing devices)

5) Which method of guarding is effective in protecting employees by sending a stop signal to the equipment:

- a.** Controlled access with dual restraint switches
- b.** fixed guard
- c.** Around mobile equipment near robot
- d.** Interlocked gates

OSHA looks into worker death

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the Tuesday death of a 48-year-old man at a worksite northwest of Cherryvale.

Preliminary information indicates that the incident occurred when an

employee was struck by a vehicle at a natural gas pipeline construction site.

OSHA will determine if any violations of OSHA safety and health standards contributed to the incident.

Colt Energy Inc. is engaged in oil and gas

exploration, development and production and gas collection in eastern Kansas. The accident occurred at a new natural gas pipeline construction site.

The worker's name was not released.

OSHA begins investigating oil field fire

A flash fire at a drilling site eight miles south of Sharon Springs on Monday left seven workers injured. Tonight, Murfin Drilling tells KSN that both people who were hospitalized, initially in critical condition, have non-life threatening injuries.

The incident is now under investigation by OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, a division of the U.S. Department of Labor

"We look at the violation itself," said Scott Allen, a spokesperson for OSHA, "not whether there are a specific number of employees or an employee injured or not."

OSHA says it has cited Murfin Drilling, based in Wichita, seven times in the last decade.

"OSHA certainly believes that these types of incidences are preventable if all OSHA standards and operations are being followed," said Allen.

Those citations include an incident in 2008 when a worker was killed when hit by material on a job site near Great Bend as well as other incidents in Kansas and Colorado.

In a 2011 case, Murfin was fined nearly \$15,000 for several violations, including not preventing recognized hazards at one of their sites.

"We don't expect any company to have OSHA violations," said Allen. "They know the rules and they know the laws, the OSHA standards and regulations, and they should be following them. We don't accept the fact that they have any violations."

Murfin released a statement saying "there was a flash fire during a drill stem test that ignited in the mud pit...we expect all injured employees to make a full recovery."

An official with OSHA was on site on Thursday interviewing workers, and their full investigation could take as long as six months.

OSHA fines hospital over failure to help nurses lift heavy patients

What do you get when you combine a national obesity crisis with an aging workforce?

Injured nurses, says the nursing union that forced a South Jersey hospital to provide more training and equipment to [help nurses safely handle patients](#).

Virtua Memorial Hospital in Mount Holly [reached a settlement](#) with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in which it agreed to pay a fine of \$12,471 and to have equipment readily available to move patients as well as train managers and caregivers in their use.

Nurses at the hospital had long been concerned there wasn't enough equipment to

help them move patients, sometimes on short notice, said Bridget Devane, public policy director of the Health Professionals and Allied Employees union.

Last month the federal agency cited the hospital for requiring medical staff to perform unsafe patient handling tasks. As a result, it is putting into effect several changes to tackle the issue.

New Jersey passed a Safe Patient Handling Act over a decade ago, Devane said. The law was designed to prevent what was called at the time an "epidemic" of back injuries in the profession.

Since then, however, two factors have combined to

make those protections more essential: The average patient is getting heavier, while the average nurse is getting older, she said.

As a result, both nurse and patient risk injury if a patient has to be moved without the proper help or equipment. "If she's lifting someone by herself, it also creates a situation where patients are put at risk too. If the nurse's knees go out, the patient will be injured as well," she said.

As part of the settlement, OSHA will conduct at least two inspections next year to monitor compliance with the settlement, the union said.

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**Division of Industrial
Safety and Health
417 SW Jackson St
Topeka, KS, 66609**

Phone: (620) 429-0008
Fax: (785) 296-1775
E-mail:
brian.welch@dol.ks.gov
Safety
shelly.briley@dol.ks.gov
SHARP Coordinator
(785) 224-5040

"Safety is not an object nor
something you can measure! It's
a culture, a value."



Information provided by
OSHA QuickTakes, OSHA
News Clips.

Answers: 1.C 2.B 3.A
4.C 5.D

Subpart D – Walking Working Surfaces

OSHA's updates to Subpart D – Walking Working Surfaces are aimed to standardize the 1910 General Industry requirements with the 1926 Construction requirements.

Scaffolding requirements will now be the same in General Industry and Construction workplaces. General Industry requirements will not change the 4-foot fall protection requirement, however, it does give employers the option to choose the fall protection system

(guardrails, personal fall arrest system, safety nets), they implement in their workplace.

Because of the introduction of this fall protection flexibility, OSHA has also added standard onto Subpart I – Personal Protective Equipment, with 1910.140 – Requirements for Personal Fall Protection Equipment. Training will also be required to train employees on use of the Fall Protection System you choose to implement.

The final rule will become effective on January 17, 2017.

More [information](#)

Upcoming Events

Plan to join us in 2017 for
the 68th Annual Safety and
Health Conference - at the
Capitol Plaza Hotel, in
Topeka, KS, September 19
– 22, 2017.

Check out our website:
[http://www.dol.ks.gov/Safety/
events.aspx](http://www.dol.ks.gov/Safety/events.aspx)